

## Message Text

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71-64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NSA-02 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01

DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19 OMB-01 NIC-01 RSR-01

/129 W

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R 201647Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2116

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

UAMEMBASSY MOSCOW 6166

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 1252

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y TO ADD MOSCOW AS INFO ADDEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GE

SUBJECT: LOWERING OF GDR FLAG IN WEST BERLIN

1. SUMMARY: CLAIMING ALLIED ORDINANCE AS BASIS FOR ACTION, SENAT JULY 18 ORDERED REMOVAL BY POLICE OF GDR FLAG HANGING IN FRONT OF WEST BERLIN HOTEL. INCIDENT DREW IMMEDIATE PROTEST FROM ADN, PUBLISHED ON FRONT PAGE NEUS DEUTSCHLAND JULY 20. END SUMMARY.

2. ACTING IN RESPONSE TO CITIZENS COMPLAINT, SENATOR FOR INTERIOR JULY 18 INSTRUCTED POLICE TO REMOVE GDR FLAG HANGING OUTSIDE WEST BERLIN HOTEL. REMOVAL WAS STRONGLY PROTESTED BY HOTEL MANAGER, WHO LATER CLAIMED THAT FLAG HAD FLOWN SINCE REOPENING OF HOTEL MAY 25 IN COMPANY OF FLAGS OF 13 OTHER NATIONS (INCLUDING USSR).

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FOLLOWING REMOVAL, SENAT SPOKESMAN DECLARED THAT

POLICE ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALLIED ORDINANCE PROHIBITING RAISING OF GDR FLAG "WITH PROVOCATORY INTENTION." (IRONICALLY, RELEVANT ALLIED DOCUMENT IS BK/L(70)41, WHICH WAS ISSUED IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR FOR INTERIOR'S REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF BAN ON GDR FLAGS IN LIGHT OF CHANGING INTERNATIONAL SCENE. BK/L REAFFIRMED EXISTING PROSCRIPTION OF DISPLAY OF GDR SYMBOLS BUT OFFERED TO CONSIDER PARTICULAR SUGGESTIONS IN THIS CONTEXT ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.) ALTHOUGH SENAT REQUESTED ALLIED VIEWS REGARDING PRESENT CASE, IT WENT AHEAD WITHIN HOUR, WITHOUT WAITING FOR RESPONSE.

3. IN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO ABSOLVE SENAT OF RESPONSIBILITY, SENAT SPOKESMAN WAS QUOTED IN MORNING PRESS JULY 19 AS SAYING THAT AS FAR AS SENAT WAS CONCERNED GDR FLAG COULD FLY IN FRONT OF HOTEL FOR "ANOTHER TEN YEARS"; HOWEVER, POLICE WERE CONSTRAINED BY ALLIED REGULATIONS TO TAKE ACTION THEY DID. THIS ATTITUDE WAS SHARPLY CRITICIZED IN BERLINER MORGENPOST AND B.Z. (BOTH SPRINGER PRESS) JULY 20. MORGENPOST REMARKED THAT, THANKFULLY, ALLIES HAD MORE POLITICAL INSTINCT IN SUCH MATTERS THAN SENAT.

4. WHEN ALLIED OFFICERS SUGGESTED TO HEAD OF CHANCELLERY HERZ THAT SENAT MIGHT HAVE ACTED PRECIPITATELY HE SAID HE WOULD HELDED AFFAIR SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY AND INDICATED SENATOR NEUBAUER HAD ORDERED POLICE INTO ACTION POSTHASTE.

5. JULY 19 ADN STATEMENT, PUBLISHED ON FRONT PAGE NEUES DEUTSCHLAND JULY 20, PROTESTED LOWERING OF GDR FLAG AS "UNPRECEDENTED ACTION" THAT WENT HAND-IN-HAND WITH "HARASSMENT MEASURES" AGAINST WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL DIRECTED FROM WEST BERLIN. SENAT SPOKESMAN IMMEDIATELY REJECTED PROTEST ON GROUNDS THAT REGULATIONS IN EFFECT IN WEST BERLIN WERE "EXCLUSIVELY OUR OWN AFFAIR." JULY 20 NEUES DEUTSCHLAND ALSO PRINTED JULY 19 DIE WAHRHEIT (SEW) STATEMENT TERMING INCIDENT A "PROVOCATIVE ACT" THAT COULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED CHALLENGE TO GDR AND TO ALL WEST BERLINERS CONCERNED WITH STRICT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OBSERVANCE OF "WESTBERLIN AGREEMENT" AND DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD-NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS.BORG

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <15 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>  
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**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Subject:** LOWERING OF GDR FLAG IN WEST BERLIN  
**TAGS:** PGOV, WB, GC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005